## ABSTRACT

An apparatus for washing items comprises a generally 1 2 cylindrical mesh housing; a first wall and a second wall, 3 said first wall and said second wall being positioned within said housing so as to define first, second and 4 5 third compartments in said housing; an opening in each of 6 said compartments through which an item to be washed can 7 be placed in or removed from a respective compartment; 8 and a closure device for closing said compartments to 9 retain said items in said compartments when said items 10 are being washed. The first wall and said second wall 11 may each comprise an endless pocket and a stiffener 12 disposed within said pocket. A polymer loop may be used 13 to stiffen said first wall and said second wall. A method 14 of using the apparatus to wash various items, including those of delicate fabrics. 15